THE Protestation made BY THE PARLIAMENT

the third day of *May*,
Anno Domini,
1641.

Printed *Anno*, 1641.

The Preamble of the *Houſe* of *Commons* to the *Proteſtation*.

EE the *Knights*, *Citizens*, and *Burgeſſes*, of the Commons Houſe of *Parliament*, finding to the great griefe of our hearts, that the deſignes of *Prieſts* and *Ieſuits*, and others adherent to the See of *Rome*, have of late bin more frequently, and boldly put in practice then formerly, to the undermining, and danger of the true *Reformed Religion* in his *Majeſties Dominions* eſtabliſhed, and finding alſo that

there have bin, and having juſt cauſe to ſuſpect there ſtill are, during the ſitting of this preſent *Parliament*, endevours to ſubvert the fundamentall *Laws* of *England*, & *Ireland*; and to introduce the *Exerciſe* of an *Arbitrarie* and *Tyrannicall Government* by moſt pernitious Councels, Practices, Plots, and Conſpiracies, and that the long intermiſſion and breach of *Parliaments* have occaſioned many illegall *Taxations*, whereby the *Subjects* have bin proſecuted and grieved, and that divers *Innovations*, and *Superſtitions* have bin brought into the *Church*, multitudes driven out of his *Majeſties Dominions*, *Iealouſies* raiſed and fomented between the *King* and his *People*, a *Popiſh Armie* levied in *Ireland*, and two *Armies* brought into the bowels of this *Kingdome* to the hazard of his *Majeſties Royall Perſon*, the conſumption of the *Revenue* of the *Crowne* and *Treaſure* of the *Kingdome*, And laſtly, finding great cauſes of *Iealouſie* that endeavours have bin, and are uſed to bring the *Engliſh Army* into

into misunderstanding of this *Parliament*, thereby to incline that *Armie* with force to bring to passe these wicked *Counsels*, have therefore thought good to joyne our selves in a *Declaration* of our united affection and resolution, and to make this ensuing *Protestation*.

The *Protestation* made *May* the third, 1641.

I *A. B. doe promise, vow, and protest in the presence of Almightie God to maintain, and defend as farre as lawfully I may with my life, power, and Estate, the true Reformed Protestant Religion expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of* England, *against all Popery and Popish Innovations within the Realme, contrarie to the said Doctrine, and according to the dutie of my Allegiance to his Majesties Royall*

Royall Person, Honour, and Estate, as also the power, and privileges of the Parliament, the lawfull Rights, and Liberties of the Subject, and every person that maketh this Protestation in whatsoever hee shall do in the lawfull pursuance of the same, and to my power, and as far as lawfully I may, I will oppose, and by all good ways and means endevour to bring to condigne punishment all such as shall either by force, practices, Counsels, Plots, Conspiracies, or otherwise do any thing to the contrary in this present Protestation contained. And further that I shall in all just, and honourable ways endevour to preserve the Vnion and peace of the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *neither for hope, feare, or other respect shall relinquish this promise, vow and Protestation.*

FINIS.

WHereas ſome doubts have been raiſed by ſeverall perſons out of this Houſe, concerning the meaning of theſe words contained in the Proteſtation lately made by the Members of this Houſe, (viz.) The true Reformed Proteſtant Religion, expreſſed in the Doctrine of the Church of *England*, againſt all Popery and Popiſh Innovations within this Realme, contrary to the ſame doctrine; *This Houſe doth declare, That by thoſe words, was, and is meant, onely the publike Doctrine profeſſed in the ſaid Church, ſo far as it is oppoſite to Popery and Popiſh Innovations; And that the ſaid words are not to be extended to the maintaining of any form of Worſhip, Diſcipline, or Government, nor of any Rites or Ceremonies of the ſaid Church of* England.

May 5. 1641.

IT is this day ordered by the Houſe of Commons now aſſembled in Parliament, That the preamble, together with the Proteſtation, which the Members of this houſe made the third of May, ſhall be forthwith printed, and the Coppies printed brought to the Clarke of the ſaid houſe, to atteſt under his hand, to the end that the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes may ſend them downe to the Shrieves and Juſtices of Peace of the ſeverall Shires, and to the Citizens and Burgeſſes of the ſeverall Cities, Boroughs, and Cinque Ports, reſpectively. And the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes, are to intimate unto the Shires, Cities, Borroughs, and Cinqueports, with what willingneſſe all the Members of this Houſe made this proteſtation: and further to ſignifie, that as they juſtifie the taking of it in themſelves, ſo they cannot but approve it in al ſuch as ſhall take it.

May twentie fift, 1641.

IT is thought fit that the Proteſtation, which the Parliament lately made, be taken by the Citie of *London*, the next Lords Day, being the thirtieth of this inſtant moneth, in the ſeverall Pariſh Churches in the afternoon after Sermon before the Congregation be diſſolved, by all Maſters of Families, their Sonnes, and men Servants in manner and forme following. *viz.*

Firſt, That forthwith notice of this intention be given to the Miniſter, Churchwardens, and ſome other meet Perſons of each Pariſh in *London*, Liberties, and adjacent Pariſhes, and ſome of them to give notice to the reſt of the Pariſhioners.

Secondly, That the Miniſter be entreated (if he pleaſe) to acquaint his Pariſh in his Sermon, either forenoon or afternoon, with the nature of the buſineſſe, more or leſſe as hee ſhall thinke fit, for the better and more ſolemne taking of the ſaid Proteſtation, or if the Miniſter refuſe it, that ſome other be entreated to preach that will promote the buſineſſe; or if neither of theſe may be had, that ſome other convenient courſe be taken by ſome well affected to the buſineſſe to ſtay the Pariſh, and communicate the matter to them.

Third-

Thirdly, That the Minister or Ministers of every Congregation first take it, in his or their own person, reading the said Protestation in so distinct a voice, that all present may conveniently heare it, and that all the Assembly present doe make the same Protestation distinctly after this manner, every man taking this Protestation into his hand.

I A. B. *doe in the presence of Almighty God freely and heartily promise, vow, and protest the same which the leading person took, naming the person.*

Fourthly, That there bee a Register Booke wherein every Man taking this vow or protestation subscribe his name, with his own hand or mark, and that the names be taken of such as doe refuse the same.

Fifthly, That all the Parishioners abovesaid whether in Town or out of Town be earnestly requested to bee present at their owne Parish Church in the afternoone, that every man may take it in their own place, and if any be necessarily absent that they may be desired to take it the next Lords day after, or so soon as may be with conveniency.

Sixtly, and lastly, that all whom it doth not immediatly concerne be earnestly requested to depart.